

Filed for intro on 02/02/95
House Bill _____
By _____

Senate No. SB1121
By Cooper

AN ACT to designate certain bridges on U.S. Highway 70S in
Warren County as "The Angels Bridge".

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

WHEREAS, from time to time, this General Assembly has seen fit to name certain highways and bridges to honor the memory of those young people who have been taken from us at far too tender an age; and

WHEREAS, Melissa Dawn Brumbelow was born March 31, 1978, in Florence, Alabama; James Ryan Dunham was born November 18, 1977, in Warren County, Tennessee; and Dean Ivan Gillespie, Jr, was born September 27, 1977, in DeKalb County, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Melissa, Ryan and Dean were citizens of Warren County and students at Warren County High School, where they earned the respect, admiration and affection of their fellow students as well as the faculty and administration; they were recognized for their excellence in academic performance, athletic accomplishments, public service involvement and school and community pride; and

WHEREAS, these three students distinguished themselves not only as honor students, but also in moral leadership and Christian witness and service in their respective churches and in the community at large; and

WHEREAS, these students, by the force of their example, were models of quality citizenship, moral conviction and spiritual vitality, inspiring and challenging all who knew them to honor and practice the highest ideals of humanity and of their Christian faith; and

WHEREAS, the lives of these students, full of promise and potential for personal growth and service to mankind, were suddenly and tragically ended in an automobile accident in Coffee County, Tennessee, on November 18, 1994, a disaster which brought immeasurable grief not only to the families and friends of the victims but to the entire citizenry of Warren County; and

WHEREAS, the Warren County Commission has expressed a desire to name two bridges on U.S. Highway 70S as a fitting memorial to these three outstanding young people, and as an appropriate expression, on behalf of all citizens of Warren County, of their most sincere sympathy and heartfelt condolences to the families, friends and loved ones most directly touched by this tragedy; and

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly wish to heartily concur in the sentiment of this loving gesture, and by doing so, comply with the desires of the good people of Warren County; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE

SECTION 1. So that the excellence of their character and citizenship, and the moral and spiritual inspiration of their lives, not fade from the memory of their community but rather be remembered as a wellspring of guidance and leadership, the two (2) bridges on U.S. Highway 70S near the Newtown community in Warren County, which bridges or overpasses span the junction of the State Route 55 Bypass (Pelham Parkway) and the U.S. Highway 70S Bypass (Bobby Ray Memorial Parkway), are hereby both designated as "The Angels Bridge" to honor the memory of Melissa Brumbelow, Ryan Dunham and Dean Gillespie, Jr.

SECTION 2. The Department of Transportation is directed to erect suitable signs or to affix suitable markers designating such bridges on U.S. Highway 70S in Warren County as “The Angels Bridge”. The language utilized on such signs and/or markers shall be substantially as follows:

The Angels Bridge
Dedicated to the Memory of
Melissa Brumbelow
Ryan Dunham and
Dean Gillespie, Jr.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.